



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

May 5, 2011

The Honorable Dave Heineman
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
P.O. Box 94848
Lincoln, NE 68509-4848

Dear Governor Heineman:

During the week of October 4, 2010, staff from the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) program from the U.S. Department of Education conducted the first of two monitoring reviews of your State's implementation of the SFSF program. Your State's SFSF contacts were extremely helpful in coordinating and responding to this desk review.

During the monitoring review, we discussed your State's policies, procedures, and activities related to the SFSF program. We spoke with officials at local educational agencies (LEAs) that received Education Stabilization Fund grants and representatives of entities that received Government Services Fund grants. A complete description of the scope of the monitoring review and the SFSF monitoring protocols are available on the Department's website at www.ed.gov/programs/statestabilization/applicant.

The Department found that the State implemented the program expeditiously and effectively in order to meet the financial needs of LEAs and other State agencies. This report demonstrates Nebraska's commitment to ensuring that the funds were spent quickly, while balancing the need for accountability and transparency.

The Department did not find any issues regarding the State's implementation of the program but does recommend that the State include additional detail in its SFSF monitoring protocols in order to describe the State's comprehensive monitoring activities.

www.ed.gov

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

The Department is grateful for the cooperation and responsiveness of the staff in Nebraska. Monitoring not only helps States to achieve high-quality implementation but also helps the Department to improve its role as an advisor and partner with States in this effort. As we work together, we want this process to be interactive and helpful.

We will be contacting your office in the future to schedule an on-site monitoring review of the State's implementation of the SFSF program. We look forward to collaborating with you and the other officials in Nebraska who are working on this critical educational initiative.

Sincerely,

//s//

Ann Whalen
Deputy Director, Implementation & Support Unit